

# Collective Worship Policy



Featherstone All Saints  
C of E Academy

Reviewed: June 2024  
To be reviewed: June 2025

# Collective Worship Policy

## Introduction

At All Saints we are committed to valuing and nurturing each child as an individual who will achieve their best and develop an enthusiasm for lifelong learning. Our vision is for the children in our school to grow into responsible, caring and fulfilled adults who actively and positively contribute to the society in which they live. We are committed to raising standards, values and self-esteem for all those involved with our school through cultivating a secure, yet exciting environment that is positive, supportive, stimulating and enriching.

As a Church of England Primary School we see our Collective Worship as a central part of school life. Our Collective Worship policy fulfils the statutory requirements common to all schools according to the 1988 Education Reform Act (and consolidated in the 1996 Education Act). It also fulfils the Diocesan requirements for a voluntary aided church school which states that worship will be Christian in content.

## Aims

Our aim is that our worship contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all children and staff.

### **Our policy for collective worship supports this by:**

- Recognising that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide opportunities for our pupils' and staff spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Providing a daily act of collective worship for all pupils which enables them to:
  - worship God
  - reflect on Christian values for schools, personal development, multi-faith festivals and curriculum aptitudes
  - develop a community spirit, a common ethos and shared values
  - consider spiritual and moral issues
  - respond to the worship offered
  - respond to Christian language and symbolism and experience stillness and quiet
  - experience a variety of forms of prayer and meditation. These might include praise, seeking forgiveness or quiet reflection

- begin to understand the nature and purpose of worship
- Ensuring the daily act of collective worship be distinctly Christian in content and follows the liturgical calendar
- Ensuring Collective Worship, whether in assembly or class time, will:
  - be inspiring and transformational
  - be led by senior leaders, staff, children, clergy and visitors.
  - develop the Christian vision, values and ethos of the school and focus on our school Christian values
  - include a range of creative opportunities e.g. music, silence, drama
  - involves pupils through members of the Worship Council opening and closing worship and through pupils writing their own prayers
  - celebrate and give thanks for the achievements within the school, local and international community and occasions of significance, including festivals
  - provide a foundation for a mature understanding and practice of worship in the future
  - will take place in the school hall, outdoors, in class rooms or the church
  - respecting the right of parents to withdraw their children for Collective Worship

### Content of Daily worship

As a Church of England school the content of our worship is organised to:

- Follow a half termly theme, covering a range of Christian Values, linked to the school vision, values and community
- Cover all the major Christians festivals including Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.
- Be rooted in Bible teaching
- Use the school prayer, Lord's prayer and other prayers written by pupils and led by the worship group
- Follow an order of service

- Be presented using a variety of styles and to include music, story, drama, enthusiastic singing, reflection and reverence in prayer time.

### **Special Services and Visitors**

We value our links with the staff and congregation of All Saints Church and Featherstone Gospel Church. We hold our Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Harvest services in church. Father Joseph of All Saints Church regularly leads worship and always attend our services in the church. Where possible we also invite other members of the community in to lead worship. All visitors are welcome to attend our Collective worship.

### **Inclusion and withdrawal**

Collective worship is central to the life of the school. However, parents/carers do have a legal right to withdraw their children from all or part of worship. Before making the decision to exercise that right parents /carers are encouraged to discuss the issues with the head teacher. Staff also have the right to withdraw on grounds of conscience but we hope that all staff will feel able to support the Christian ethos of the school by participating in collective worship.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

The school will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school

### **Linked Documents**

- R.E Policy

## Vision Statement

At All Saints we strive to support and challenge pupils as they grow emotionally, academically and spiritually. Underpinning our Christian ethos is the parable of the mustard seed:

The Parable of the Mustard Seed, Matthew 13: 31-32

[Jesus] told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

Our school vision encompasses a vision of the Kingdom of God, where God's love rules, where everyone is welcome, where everyone is valued and where everyone can flourish.

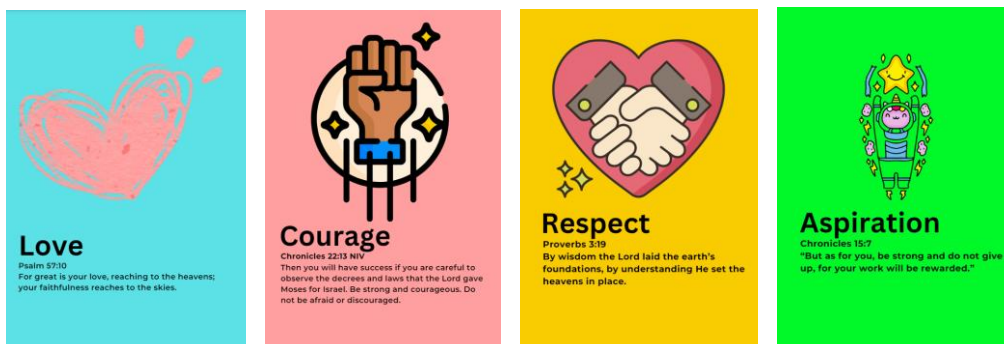
At All Saints we believe that everyone is valued as unique individuals and, like the mustard seed, we all have the potential to grow and to flourish. Jesus said that faith as small as a mustard seed could achieve great things, even move a mountain.

Our school is a close-knit community that feels like a supportive family, rooted together, celebrating everyone's success. We aspire to live as God wants us to; to love and respect God and to treat others how we would want to be treated.

Like the tree that the seed in the parable becomes, we want our school to be a place where everyone feels at home, has their voice heard and regardless of the path that life takes, know that support will always be offered to everyone.

## School Values

We believe that the core values of Love, Respect, Aspiration and Courage are values which meet the needs of our school and community. We refer to the values regularly and all members of our school community live with these values:



Whole School Worship Yearly Planner 2024/2025

	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Annual Cycle (2024-25)	Courage (Harvest)	Respect (Advent and Christmas)	Hope/Aspiration (Epiphany and Candlemas)	Friendship (Lent & Easter)	Perseverance (Pentecost)	Responsibility (Trinity)

At All Saints we follow the "Values for Life" scheme for whole school worship. This scheme splits 18 Christian values into 18 half termly themes, which we use selectively around our school vision and values. Each half term we will have a different theme that will be displayed on the worship display in the hall and in each classroom. This is to ensure that our values are fully embedded. All worship will follow order of service and will include hymns and prayer. All of whole school worship will focus on teachings of the Bible. Prayers and worship should be led by a mixture of SLT, Father Joseph (All Saints Church) and our worship group members. The school will follow the liturgical calendar for key Christian celebrations. We have whole school worship at the following times:

- Monday: 9am - Worship (Years 1 to 6) Mr. Burton (Head teacher)
- Tuesday: 9am - Worship (Years 1 to 6) Mrs. Morgan-Meek (Deputy Head teacher) Sing and praise Worship
- Wednesday: 9am- Class Worship (individual classrooms) and alternate weeks Key Stage Worship (Main Hall)
- Thursday: 9am - Worship (Years 1 to 6) Father Joseph from All Saints Church
- Friday: 9am - Celebration Worship (Whole School) Mr. Burton (Head teacher)

## Order of Whole School Worship at All Saints

### Worship Table

- Runner or cloth to reflect the colour of the season of the Church year
- Value poster
- Bible open at the Bible verse or story for the day
- An artefact or object suggesting the theme or content of the worship
- Candle

### Lighting of the candle - pupils lead the Trinity

When all of the pupils have gathered several children lead the Trinity to signal the start of worship.

### Welcome

The key message of the worship (Bible story or passage) is introduced to school.

### Learning

Teaching of the key message through the use of drama, visual images, storytelling, puppetry or poetry.

### Reflecting

The reflecting element encourages everyone to consider how the Bible story or stimulus has resonated with or challenged them.

### Hymn

Pupils will sing together a traditional hymn or Christian song linked with the half termly Christian Value theme.

### Responding

Responding provides an opportunity to consider how God might be challenging those present in the worship to "step out" and play their part in making a difference in the works either as individuals or as part of the whole school community.

### Closing prayer

Often linked to the theme of the worship.

### Extinguishing of the candle

To signal the end of worship.

As well as whole school worship we also have in class worship. In class worship takes place once a week and follows the same order as the whole school worship. Class worship will revolve around a single theme per half term and matches the whole school worship or link to class RE lessons. Class worship is at the following times from Year 1 to Year 6.

Wednesday: 10.15 (am)

### Daily Prayer

As well as in class worship we also have daily prayers that are said in class. These prayers are led by the class teacher and the members of the worship group. Some of the following prayers are said at these times of the day (staff are free to choose their own morning, lunch and home time prayers):

#### **Morning Prayer (after register) An example**

Jesus

Wake me!

Warm my heart with your love.

Shake me!

Inspire my mind with your words.

Fill me!  
Nourish my soul with your hope.  
Hold me!  
Protect my life with your strength.  
Be with me  
As I work, rest and relax today.

Amen.

**Prayer before lunch (before lunch) An example**

***Lunchtime Prayers***

***EYFS and KS1***

*Thank you for the world so sweet,  
Thank you for the food we eat,  
Thank you for the birds that sing,  
Thank you God for everything!*

***KS2***

*Dear God,*

*For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful. Help us to remember those who are starving.*

*Amen.*

**Home Time Prayer (before the children leave) An example**

Now the day is over, we lift our hearts and say,  
Thank you heavenly father for today.  
We're sorry about the wrong things,  
we're glad about the right,  
Keep us heavenly Father in your heart tonight.  
Bless us through this night.

Amen.

These are some examples of prayers but each class may choose different ones.

## In Class Order of Worship at All Saints

### Lighting of the candle

When all of the pupils are quietly sitting down the candles are lit by the worship group to signal the start of worship.

### Welcome

The key message of the worship (Bible story or passage) is introduced to the class.

### Learning

Teaching of the key message through the use of drama, visual images, storytelling, puppetry or poetry.

### Reflecting

The reflecting element encourages everyone to consider how the Bible story or stimulus has resonated with or challenged them.

### Responding

Responding provides an opportunity to consider how God might be challenging those present in the worship to "step out" and play their part in making a difference in the works either as individuals or as part of the whole school community.

### Extinguishing of the candle

Candles are extinguished by the worship group to signal the end of worship.

## **Our Class Worship Areas**

Every classroom has a worship area. Each worship area looks exactly the same with the same items on it.

The worship area has the following items on it:

- Bible
- Cross
- The theme displayed (Friendship)
- Christian Values displayed
- Relevant books (linked to the curriculum)
- Prayer box
- Key questions
- Activities
- Prayer leaves (attached to tree or branches)
- Candle
- Minutes of worship group

Pupils are encouraged to use the worship areas in class to reflect on the themes and stories from worship, to answer key questions on display, to participate in activities provided or to write prayers for the prayer tree. Pupils are encouraged to use this space as often as they like during the school day.

## Appendix

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (Thursday)

#### Father Joseph (All Saints Church)

<p><b><u>SEPTEMBER</u></b></p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> New beginnings            12<sup>th</sup> Being together            19<sup>th</sup> Jesus's friends            26<sup>th</sup> Including everyone</p>	<p><b><u>OCTOBER</u></b></p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Love your neighbour            10<sup>th</sup> Following a leader            18<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival service in A.S ch            24<sup>th</sup> People to admire</p>	<p><b><u>NOVEMBER</u></b></p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> Remember            14<sup>th</sup> Famous people            21<sup>st</sup> Christ the King            28<sup>th</sup> Be prepared (Advent)</p>
<p><b><u>DECEMBER</u></b></p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Keeping promises            12<sup>th</sup> Carol concert in A.S. ch            19<sup>th</sup> Christmas service in A.S. ch</p>	<p><b><u>JANUARY</u></b></p> <p>9<sup>th</sup> Gifts            16<sup>th</sup> Baptism/Christening            23<sup>rd</sup> I am special            30<sup>th</sup> Good news and bad news</p>	<p><b><u>FEBRUARY</u></b></p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> Candlemas service in A.S. ch            13<sup>th</sup> Celebrating differences            27<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday</p>
<p><b><u>MARCH</u></b></p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Being put to the test            12<sup>th</sup> Forgiveness            19<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday            26<sup>th</sup> Death and new life</p>	<p><b><u>APRIL</u></b></p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Lent/Easter service in A.S. ch            23<sup>rd</sup> Sacrifice - What Is Sacrifice?            30<sup>th</sup> Welcoming the outsider</p>	<p><b><u>MAY</u></b></p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> Miracles            14<sup>th</sup> Good news and bad news            21<sup>st</sup> Ascension Day</p>
<p><b><u>JUNE</u></b></p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> Pentecost service in A.S. ch            11<sup>th</sup> Action speaks louder than words            18<sup>th</sup> Stronger together            25<sup>th</sup> All creatures great and small</p>	<p><b><u>JULY</u></b></p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Water is life            10<sup>th</sup> Leaver's service in A.S. school            16<sup>th</sup> Going on holiday</p>	

Worship in school starts at 9a.m.

Services in church start at 9.30a.m.